

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 609

UNCLAS HELSINKI 2230

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, FI

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: SEPPO WESTERLUND

1. FINLAND'S NEW MINISTER OF DEFENSE IS SEPPO WESTERLUND, A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM THE LIBERAL PARTY. THIS IS HIS FIRST CABINET POSITION.

2. BORN NOVEMBER 2, 1930 IN OULU, WESTERLUND RECEIVED AN ENGINEERING DEGREE FROM THE HELSINKI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN 1954 AND HAS PURSUED A CAREER IN ENGINEERING AND MAGAGEMENT IN THE CONSTURCTION BUSINESS. IN 1973 HE WAS APPOINTED CONSTRUCTION COUNSELOR IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS.

3. WESTERLUND HAS LONG BEEN ACTIVE IN THE LIBERAL PARTY AND HAS NARROWLY LOST OUT IN TWO BIDS FOR THE PARTY'S CHAIRMANSHIP, MOST RECENTLY IN THE 1976 CONGRESS. HE WAS ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT IN 1970 AND AT THE TIME OF HIS APPOINTMENT WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE COMMITTEE.

4. WESTERLUND IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER MARGIT ANNELI WINTER. THE COUPLE HAVE THREE CHILDREN: JUKKA, BORN 1959; RIIKKA, BORN 1961; AND HEIKKI, BORN 1966. BOTH OF THE WESTERLUND'S SPEAK VERY GOOD ENGLISH.

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